



From the Desk of Father Peter

The Feast of Pentecost - Come Holy Spirit

Pentecost was originally a Jewish agricultural feast. It was celebrated fifty days or seven weeks after Passover and started as a feast of thanksgiving for the harvest. As it developed it also

became a celebration of deeds in the salvation. celebrate the faith and how spiritual during difficult challenging



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reminder and God's mighty history of Today, we harvest of our it has been a nourishment and days. The

Feast we celebrate today gives us a chance to remember what God has done in the mystery of the life of Jesus Christ. We call this feast day the "birthday of the church" and we are the body who make up the congregation. The Spirit's signs and wonders we experience in our Baptism and Confirmation surround us and are in our midst every day. We have been strengthened by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and have become committed members who serve in ministry, full-time as well as the many volunteers. None of us has all the gifts needed to minister to this community or to address the needs of the world around us. But as a community we have seen and heard of the Spirit's gifts still being poured on those gathered in "one place together," as the disciples were on Pentecost, and we too, have on this day. The signs may not be as spectacular as wind,

flames, and charismatic speech, but they are, nevertheless, part of the drama of the Acts of the Spirit that we read about this Pentecost Day. For among us here today are people who have been nourished by God's Spirit over a lifetime. We still believe; we are still yearning for God and we are still trying to be faithful to our commitments. In this fickle world where people walk away from commitments they have made to church and family, the Church continues to proclaim in word and deed Christ's ongoing life among us. Once again in this faith community of St. John's, the Holy Spirit is lighting a fire that will fuel our faith. We also ask you to pray for our various committee representatives who make the running of this parish collaborative in ministry. This Feast of Pentecost is a major feast of the Church. It is so important because it is a celebration of the perpetual, powerful presence of God in and through the Holy Spirit in the Church. More than the fulfilled promise of Jesus, the Holy Spirit is the driving force of unity and evangelization in the Church. It is this force which unites all the followers of Jesus into his Body. It is this force which goes forth into the world to teach, challenge, convert, and bring peace. There are times in our lives when we feel weak and alone, when we lack confidence in our faith or in our Christian calling. Our Feast of Pentecost serves as a reminder to us that we are not alone—the Holy Spirit is with us. When we open our lives to the power of the Spirit, great things will happen in us and through us. The Spirit can speak the truths of God through us if we give our VOICES. The Spirit can touch broken lives, heal divisions, and impart forgiveness if we give our HEARTS. The Spirit can lift burdens, dry our tears, and do great works of charity if we give our HANDS. Come Holy Spirit to renew us, to rewind us, and re-create us in our faith.



God Bless,

Fr. Peter